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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of :  
Scott B. McCRAY et al. : Docket No. 2001-1014A  
Serial No. 09/889,553 : Group Art Unit 1723  
Filed July 19, 2001 :  
ETHYLENE-VINYL ALCOHOL HOLLOW :  
FIBER MEMBRANES :

THE COMMISSIONER IS AUTHORIZED  
TO CHARGE ANY DEFICIENCY IN THE  
FEE FOR THIS PAPER TO DEPOSIT  
ACCOUNT NO. 23-0975

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents,  
Washington, D.C.

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TC 1700

Sir:

In the interest of compact prosecution, please amend the present application as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

*As the first full sentence of the specification after the title, insert the following:*

This is a 371 of PCT/JP99/07144, filed December 20, 1999, which is a continuation-in-part of Serial No. 09/234,755, filed January 21, 1999.